



PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT

Between the Barry Callebaut Group and the Interprofessional Council for Cocoa and Coffee

A pilot project for sustainable cocoa farming in Cameroon

This is the subject of the Protocol of Agreement that will be co-signed by Antoine de SAINT-AFFRIQUE, CEO of the Barry Callebaut Group, and Apollinaire NGWE NGWE, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Council, under the patronage of Mr. Luc Magloire MBARGA ATANGANA, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Cameroon this Thursday, May 23 at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé.

The signing of this Protocol of Agreement will allow the parties, within six months, to jointly design and validate a sustainable cocoa crop model as part of a pilot project, taking into account, among other things, the initiatives that Barry Callebaut leads with its partners as well as ongoing projects under the 'Cocoa Horizons' program.

In concrete terms, this includes providing multi-faceted support to this generation of cocoa farmers from the NEW GENERATION program, in order to help them in diversifying their income, creating professional cocoa nurseries, promoting agroforestry and producing cocoa of excellence.

NEW GENERATION : youths to sustainably produce cocoa

Initiated in response to the aging of farmers and plantations, but also in order to attract young people in cocoa farming, the New Generation Program aims to professionalise young cocoa farmers and facilitate their socio-economic integration.

These youths are made up of groups of 25 individuals, who must have suitable land for cocoa farming, at least three (3) hectares for those residing in Cameroon and seven (7) hectares for those in the diaspora. Once selected, these young people benefit from tailor-made theoretical and practical training courses to produce high added value cocoa in strict respect of agroforestry and the rational use of phytosanitary products. The course ends with topics on market knowledge and agricultural entrepreneurship. They also benefit input support for nurseries and agricultural equipment as well as individualized coaching characterised by farm visits, exchange trips and workshops.

With the primary objective of training agricultural entrepreneurs, professionals in cocoa farming, and constituted in economically viable entities, the Program has been developing its 'cocoa of excellence' production component for two years now. A second level of support that includes a deepening of the modules 'post-harvest procedures and management of cooperatives', but also the implementation of dedicated infrastructure and equipment, called 'Centers of Excellence'. This segment of the production is today the one that attracts the most bean professionals in our country, because the mastery of the skills for enhancing the taste and aromatic qualities of the cocoa bean is the fundamental element in the valuation of an origin on the International market. Barry Callebaut, by participating in the effort to improve the positioning of the Cameroonian bean, become its guarantor.

About Sic Cacaos and Barry Callebaut

Founded in 1949, the Société Industrielle Camerounaise des Cacaos (Sic Cacaos) is a subsidiary company of the Swiss Barry Callebaut. Composed of 150 permanent employees, 200 seasonal employees and 150 people working at their service providers, it dominates the cocoa processing market in Cameroon. The Sic Cacao inaugurated on May 28, 2015 in Douala, a roaster and a batch of newly acquired equipment, for a total amount of nearly 5 billion CFA francs, increasing its grinding capacity from 32 000 tons to 50 000 tons, about 25% of the country's cocoa production, compared with 15% previously.

As for the Barry Callebaut group, headquartered in Switzerland, is the result of the merger between the Belgian chocolatier Callebaut and the French chocolate producer Cacao Barry in 1996. The group has been listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange since 1998. After the integration of the Acquired cocoa business of Petra Foods entering the Barry Callebaut Group in June 2013, the company is now the largest manufacturer of chocolate and cocoa products. Its objective is to outperform the global chocolate market and its ambitious growth strategy, that relies on four pillars : expansion, innovation, cost leadership and sustainability. This last component of its strategy is highlighted by the Protocol signed on May 23, 2019.